

National Park Service – Environment for the Americas
2015 Latino Heritage Intern Program
“Route 66 – New Mexico Hispanic Heritage Study”
Position Description
(For additional information visit the Environment for the Americas website)

This project, entitled “Route 66 – New Mexico Hispanic Heritage Study,” will involve historic research into an important but little known topic, which is the role that Hispanic Americans played in the history and development of Route 66. According to a 2011 Rutgers University study, Hispanic communities live along the route at twice the national average, and there is a need to better understand and commemorate this heritage. To date, little of the existing literature and interpretation of Route 66 has focused on Hispanic contributions and experiences of the highway.

The intern will focus their research in New Mexico, and examine questions such as how many Hispanics lived in New Mexico’s Route 66 communities during the historic period of significance; who were the major Hispanic families and businesses in these communities; what has been documented historically about Hispanic experiences of the road; and Hispanic perspectives and involvement on Route 66 today.

To answer these questions, the intern will gather information from U.S. census data; conduct research at Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico as well as at other libraries and public agencies; and meet Hispanic business owners and leaders in Route 66 communities. Information will be sought for both rural and urban Route 66 communities throughout New Mexico. The results of the research will lay the groundwork for future research, preservation, interpretive, and economic development efforts along the Route 66 corridor, both in New Mexico and in other states.